

SB 13-276 Concerning The Disability Investigational And Pilot Support Fund

This bill takes the Coordinated Care for People with Disabilities Fund (C.R.S. 25.5-6-111, and renames it as the Disability Investigational and Pilot Support Fund.

The Coordinated Care for People with Disabilities Fund was created in 2006 for the purpose of funding an investigational pilot to develop best practices to provide intensive care coordination for people with disabilities in the Medicaid program. That pilot reached conclusion on December 31, 2012. We learned a lot from it.

The fund will be re-designated to allow the funds to be used to provide grants or loans to continue to pilot innovative ideas which will improve quality of life or increased independence for people with disabilities. To be eligible to receive funding:

- Must be a consumer controlled non-profit, with a majority of people with disabilities on their board of directors, or all net proceeds must come back to the Disability-Benefit Support Contract Committee (C.R.S. 24-30-2203)
- If not a consumer controlled board, all net proceeds from the program must be returned to the Disability-Benefit Support Contract Committee (see below)
- Must be able to demonstrate an ability to become self-sustaining or develop sustainable long-term funding.

The funds would be managed by the Disability-Benefit Support Contract Committee (C.R.S. 24-30-2203) currently located in the Department of Administration, appointed by the Governor, and must have a majority of people with disabilities. It was created to manage the funds generated by the sale/auction of valuable license plate letter number combinations.

Various state agencies and Departments spend hundreds of thousands, or millions of dollars per year paying non-disabled individuals and companies to tell them what is best for people with disabilities; this will allow people with disabilities to investigate what works best for themselves.

The disabled community has put forward numerous proposals over the years, a number of which have been approved and implemented, with real success, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars, e.g. Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS), Wheelchair and Assistive Technology Lemon Law, Medicaid Buy-in for Working People with Disabilities.

I hope you will support this legislation, this epitomizes consumer control and self determination, and could show us a new way of spending state dollars to figure out what's "best" for distinct populations.